AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1-50.   (Canceled)

51.   (Previously presented) A method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition that specifies a place to which the parent preference element applies.

52.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

53.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements.

54.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

55.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

56.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

57.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

58.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein one of the child preference elements of the parent preference element includes a further preference condition.

59.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
updating the user description.

60.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
storing the user description.

61.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the user description includes a user identifier specifying a name for one or more users.

62.   (Previously presented) A method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:
receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe

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preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition that specifies a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

63.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

64.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

65.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

66.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

67.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein one of the child preference elements includes a further preference condition.

68.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising: updating the user preference description.

69.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising: storing the user preference description.

70.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the user preference description is associated with a user identifier that includes a name.

71.   (Previously presented) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:

a data storage device; and

data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

storing the user description in the data storage device.

72.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

73.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements.

74.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

75.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

76.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 71, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:
        updating the user description.

77.   (Previously presented) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:
        a data storage device to store a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and
        data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:
                receiving the user preference description from the data storage device; and

using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

78.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

79.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia classification attribute.

80.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 77, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:
        updating the user preference description.

81.   (Previously presented) A computer program product for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:
        providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies.

82.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

83.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

84.   (Previously presented) A computer program product for processing user preference related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchy includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

85.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 84, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.